Signing of CTBT

†1801. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether both domestic and foreign private companies have submitted their proposals in the nuclear power sector;

(b) If so, the names of such major companies and the countries they belong to;

(c) whether India is going to allow entry to all the companies of international repute for this purpose;

(d) the details of the effects it would have on the country and nuclear safety; and

(e) whether India is going to sign on the CTBT silently under strong pressure from USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. However, many Indian and foreign firms are engaged in discussions at the company level for setting up of nuclear power projects in the country. These discussions are of exploratory nature.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No decision has been taken on private sector participation in the nuclear power field.

(d) All the safety regulations and the safety requirements laid down by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board shall remain applicable as at present.

(e) No, Sir.

Violation of laws in coal mines production

1802. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that now-a-days more than fifty per cent of coal production is made through contractors and contract workers;

(b) if so, whether laws of the land permit this in coal mines production;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons for doing the same;

(d) whether the laws are being violated by the authorities; and

(e) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Out of total coal production of 343.30 million tonnes in 2005-06, 160.34 million tonnes was produced by hired equipment / outsourcing by Coal India Limited (CIL) which was 46.7% of total coal production.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The contracts being awarded by the Coal Companies for raising of coal or overburden (OB) and earth cutting do not violate the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 or the Notification No. SO-2063 dated 21.6.1988 if the contractors use Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) and do not use the services of contract labour. This stipulation is incorporated in the agreements.

Discontinuation of E-auction

1803. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for discontinuing the E-auction of coal;

(b) whether Government have evolved an alternative mechanism to allocate coal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in what way the new mechanism is an improvement over the previous E-auction scheme to facilitate supply of coal to the marginalized and small scale sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The concept of E-marketing was introduced in the year 2004-05 with a view to provide an entry opportunity for all the consumers whether linked or non-linked through a transparent system. However, the sale of coal through E-auction has been discontinued as per the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal no. 5302 of 2006